



Montgomery Bell Academy

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BIG RED PHOTOS

A Legacy in Stride

Members of the MBA community join greater Nashville in celebrating the values and goals not only of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., but those of a culture whose ambitions have been made possible by his efforts.

By **Jermaine Francis**
Staff Writer

January 19, 2015 marked another year of cities around the nation pausing to remember the life and work of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. It was a day of marches, ceremony, and service in many places, and Nashville was no exception. A group of about thirty MBA students and faculty members traveled down to Jefferson Street to participate in the Jefferson Street Baptist Church morning youth program and help as MLK Day Youth Volunteers.

Nashville is home to one of the most well known MLK Day celebrations because of our city's rich history with

the Civil Rights Movement. Over fifty years ago, a group of fiery young college students from Fisk University, Tennessee State, Meharry Medical College, and American Baptist Theological Seminary gathered at Clark Memorial United Methodist Church on 14th Avenue North to begin planning their work to combat local segregation. Led by the Reverend James Lawson, the students were taught the importance of nonviolent action and turning the other cheek to those that beat them, spat on them, and arrested them for trying to assert their natural human rights. The young revolutionaries began their sittings on Feb. 13, 1960 at three department stores: Kress, McLellan's and Woolworth's. They also sat-in at places such as

Cain-Sloan, Harvey's, Grant's Walgreens, and the Moon-McGrath drugstore. Almost all of these buildings cannot be seen today, but the impact of the events that took place there will live forever.

The movement began a nearly two-month long standoff between the white business owners and the mostly black protesters. As a result, black residents boycotted the same downtown stores where they were more than welcome to spend their hard-earned money but refused service when trying to buy a burger. The boycott severely hurt the stores' income during the holiday season, and after a march to City Hall led by Fisk junior Diane Nash and Minister C.T. Vivian, during which they got Mayor Ben West to admit the evils of discrimination, Nashville became the first city

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Rick Seay's Departure Leaves Door Open for Boyd Opportunity

By **Diego Martinez-Rojas & William Snow**
Staff Writers

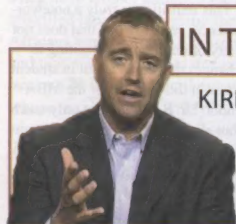
MBA has experienced a vast number of changes over the past couple of years. A large quantity of land for the campus has been acquired, multiple buildings have been torn down, and many incredible facilities have been built to replace them. It truly is hard to believe how much campus has been transformed over this relatively short period of time in the school's history. Perhaps more significant, however, are the intrinsic changes MBA has undergone. Several members of faculty who had taught here for decades have retired and have gradually been replaced by a diverse array of new faculty members.

Recently, Dr. Seay made an announcement that sent shockwaves around the campus. Our academic dean and director of the high school revealed that he will not be working at MBA next year.

Look around campus, and it will be difficult to find a department of this school that Dr. Seay has not improved in his eleven years as a faculty member. Especially in the area of the humanities on campus, namely theater, history, and speech, Dr. Seay's impact has been tremendous. His self-described proudest moments are his founding of the MBA's Competition One Act and the Junior School show, as well as his revitalizing the Freshman Speech Competition. All the while, he has been a highly respected Latin and AP Euro teacher. Every student who has come to know him over the years raves about his quick wit, his dedication to his work, and his passion for everything he does around campus. In his own words, "I love everything about teaching, and this job as

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>>> MLK MARCH, PAGE 1

in the South to desegregate.

The purpose of the march was to remember the efforts of the Civil Rights activists that helped change the face of America, and to remember the thousands of lives lost fighting for the basic human rights that all minorities were deprived of. They marched not to walk in the footsteps of people such as Martin Luther King Jr., but rather to walk alongside these people as igniters of change in the world.

72 year-old Edna Jackson was a part of the march on City Hall that ended Nashville's segregation, and she has participated in Nashville's MLK Day every year since it began. "I look at all of the young people that have come out so early in the morning to show their support of the march, and I see myself and my friends that led the way to Nashville's desegregation," says Edna. "There is no way to describe the things we experienced as African-Americans during those days, but seeing people of all races come together as one makes it all worth it."

The march is a great way to learn something about the work of the Civil Rights movement. This year, a new marcher who "didn't even know what the march was" was persuaded to attend the rally. There are no words to describe his expression when he saw how many people came to the event, witnessed the "Hands Up, Don't Shoot" rally, and made the walk to the TSU Gentry Center. He later said that he was glad to have experienced a new side of Nashville that he

hadn't seen before.

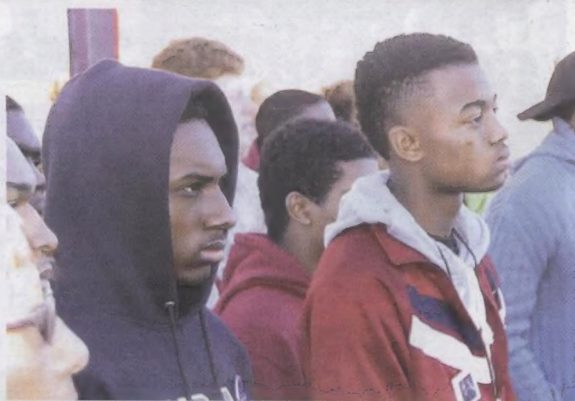
The march represents the innate human ability to want to come together as a unit to make the world a better place for all people. People march to honor those that fought for rights of minority citizens because, without them, some of us wouldn't even be able to attend MBA and enjoy all the Hill has to offer. Events such as Ferguson and the Eric Garner case show just how much farther we still have to progress as a country, but America has already come so far and, if this march is any indication, it will continue to move on, in no direction but forward.



TOP RIGHT: MBA students listen attentively to the proceedings of the Monday morning gathering.

RIGHT: Seniors Mene Zua (left) and D.J. Goodman (right) help lead the MBA crowd.

PHOTOS: BIG RED PHOTOS



>>> SEAY-BOYD, PAGE 1

academic dean and head of the high school. I am thrilled that I've had this experience for the last eleven years."

Seay never hesitates to show this love and passion every day on campus. When asked about his favorite part of MBA, he replied without hesitation, "The students. And working with the students, no matter what level, 7th grade all the way through the 12th." Dr. Seay has certainly been a unifying factor for all students who have ever come to know him. If Dr. Seay is ever negative, it is almost always for humor's sake—common knowledge is that the closer a student is to him, the more likely that student is to be made fun of regularly. Students delight in his lighthearted nature and enjoy the banter involved with his many quality teacher-student relationships.

It's understandable, then, that the campus was deeply saddened to hear the news that Dr. Seay would not be returning to The Hill next year. But the announcement was made early on not just to brace the student body for his loss, but also for his own enjoyment. He explained, "I'm excited that I have several months left to enjoy and close out some of the things that I've been working on and have that time to be able to do it. I wanted to have a semester to round out my time here rather than just leave last minute." And although he recognizes he is leaving a hard position to fill in the coming years, he believes that Dr. Boyd, his successor as academic dean, will have no problems. "I've never thought that anyone is irreplaceable. 150

years, and it'll keep going just about the same as it has always kept going" here at MBA, says Dr. Seay, citing our school's consistent, century-spanning excellence to support the claim.

As for Dr. Seay himself, he is ready to close an old chapter and open a new one in his life. He has spent a total of 17 years on campus, both as a student and faculty member. Some speculation has been going around that he is leaving because he has spent so much time at this school over the past two decades of his life, but he disagrees with this rumor, saying, "I'm one of those people who enjoys wherever I am in life. So I loved being a student here. My six years here as a student were amazing. But so have my 11 years since I came back here in 2004. Seriously, I'm happy with both."

On a similar note, some people have been curious if Dr. Seay has had any regrets regarding his 17 years on campus, to which he replied: "I'm not a regret person. It's been exciting, and I've loved every minute of it." And while he has loved every minute of his current chapter in life, he feels ready to move on to a new one.

Many rumors are also circulating through the halls concerning Dr. Seay's future, becoming only more speculative due to his tight lips on the situation. When asked whether he had a plan, he stated, "Yes. I'm working on a plan right now, but unfortunately I cannot talk about it quite yet."

Knowing Dr. Seay, he has something grand in mind, likely an offer too good to refuse when compared with a

continued stay at his home school in his home town. After 17 years of service to his school, Dr. Seay will be remembered as an all-time great.

Dr. Boyd, history teacher, founder of MBA's Cricket Club, and soon to be Dean of the High School, is ready to fill his shoes.

Dr. Boyd was born and raised in London and moved to the Nashville in 2002. After finishing his graduate studies at Vanderbilt, he knew that he wished to teach and that he wanted to continue living in Nashville. Fortunately, he discovered MBA, acquired a job with the history department, and started working here August of 2010. Ever since then, his presence on campus has been indispensable. He has come to teach various classes throughout the day, has coached sports such as swimming and tennis, and has taken part in a vast myriad of MBA's many clubs and organizations.

As noteworthy as these endeavors may be, his greatest accomplishments are yet to come. With Dr. Seay stepping down after this school year, the need arose to find somebody capable of filling the position. Dr. Boyd, when given the offer by Mr. Gioia, stepped up to the challenge.

Dr. Boyd is very excited to be taking on this new role and has begun preparing long before the transition. "I plan to spend the next several months meeting with Dr. Seay, the department heads, other teachers, student leadership groups, and Mr. Gioia to find what areas I should focus on and also to see what areas we can potentially move forwards on."

said Boyd in an interview with *The Bell Ringer*.

Along with this new job will come many new duties. Dr. Boyd sees these new tasks as opportunities. "I will enjoy getting to shape school curriculum and will enjoy helping students. Whether they are facing an academic challenge or they are trying to look for a particularly fulfilling course, I want to make sure that students are both engaged and satisfied with their classes. That is one of the great things about MBA after all: the large number of academic options," said Boyd.

Fortunately, regardless of all the ongoing changes and additions to his list of responsibilities, Dr. Boyd will continue to teach. "I will still be teaching two classes... most likely two sections of AP modern European history. I think switching from four to two classes will probably be the thing I will miss the most regardless of how much I am ready to take on the new job, but I'm very glad I'll still be able to teach. I will miss having as many students in the classroom every day." It's good to know both that Dr. Boyd will miss his classes so much and that he will still teach a couple of them.

This transition is truly a noteworthy occurrence, certainly one that does not happen very often. It will be exciting to see the changes that come about in student life and how in this new era of the MBA upper school, Dr. Boyd will not only teach history, but also make it.

Immigration Stance Should Reflect Both Compassion and Reason

By Ian Scholer
News Editor

Nashville has seen such a great influx in immigrants that President Obama visited to address the immigration system soon after issuing his executive order in November. *The Economist* acknowledged the city's significance when it ran a full-page article using Nashville as a microcosm for the immigration policy of the United States.

The issue of immigration, though, is not a pressing one only in the United States. From Australia to Britain, South Africa to the United States, nations everywhere must deal with their influx of immigrants lawfully, without violating the immigrants' human rights or upsetting their own populations.

Labor is the most common reason for migrating to the United States, since most immigrants come searching for a better job and a better life. Unfortunately, these new members of the workforce occasionally upset the residents of their new country by competing for jobs that might have been filled by the original residents. The local residents often feel cheated because some of the border crossings are illegal, allowing the immigrants to enjoy the opportunities offered by their new nation while forsaking their responsibilities.

Such is the case in both the United States and South Africa. In the United States, those on the southern border taking the Statue of Liberty up on her offer have become a source of controversy when, in their quest for the American Dream, they compete for the jobs of native Southwesterners. It is easy to understand why many of the native Southwesterners think that this competition is unfair: undocumented immigrants are not held to the same minimum-wage laws, allowing employers to undercut American citizens. Similarly, in South Africa, Zimbabweans desperate to escape Robert Mugabe's regime have been rushing to migrate to the comparatively stable southern tip of the continent. They have largely assumed the role of unskilled laborers, angering the South Africans who used to fill those roles and now find themselves unemployed because of the new immigrants, whose numbers have spiked since the turn of the century.

Many destination countries are currently grappling with how to manage their new immigrant populations. The nations have taken varied paths, none of them perfect. It must be acknowledged that immigrants who cross borders illegally are breaking the law, and therefore must be held accountable. But this simple truth does not mean that a deportation-first system is the solution, especially when the economic boost provided by immigrants is taken into consideration.

Immigrants tend to be more entrepreneurial than the rest. They are more likely to start businesses that employ more people, which is essential to a vibrant, capitalist economy. It is therefore in the best interest of any capitalist country to encourage a steady flow of immigrants. Nations like Australia, led by its fervently anti-immigration prime minister Tony Abbott, eschew both economic growth and human decency when they adopt policies with such a heavy emphasis on deportation. Britain has taken the opposite path. Un-

documented immigrants are allowed to take advantage of Britain's "welfare state" while not paying the taxes that fund their benefits, such as housing and health-care. Allowing undocumented immigrants to "freeload" is not a sustainable policy either, and this practice explains why it is being revisited by many in Parliament, especially the growing UK Independence Party, in favor of a more stringent policy.

The United States' immigration policy falls somewhere in between the

aforementioned ones. While President Obama has deported far more undocumented immigrants than his predecessors did, he has recently signed an executive order to make it easier for parents of children born in the U.S. to obtain temporary work permits. This law is a step in the right direction, but does not help to the extent that the 2013 Senate immigration bill would have. This bill would have moved the ball forward in a number of areas, such as encouraging immigrants to "come out of the shadows" and become documented while maintaining the rule of law without exceptions. Undocumented immigrants would be safe from deportation if they paid a one-time penalty fee and completed an easier (but still strenuous) path to citizenship. Unfortunately, Congress did not pass this law.

All nations with labor immigration issues should adopt such a compromise between justice and compassion, one that upholds human rights but still looks out for the nation's best interest.



DEBATE: Free Community College

PRO

By Akeim George
Staff Writer

Community colleges currently enroll 46% of the undergraduate population in the United States of America. However, only 22% of those people are graduating within three years of entering college. This is due, in part, to the level of commitment that many of the enrolling students are able to make. Most students do not enroll full-time, instead opting to work while attending college part-time, unable to afford tuition without a job. If the costs of community college were significantly reduced, then most of those who enter community college would be able to finish within a reasonable time frame.

President Obama's "America's College Promise" proposal would do just that. If this proposal were passed, the federal government would pay 75% of the tuition for students as long as they maintain a 2.5 GPA and make steady progress toward a degree. State governments would be required to pay the other 25% of tuition costs. When the proposal is combined with the existing Pell Grant award of about \$5,000, getting an education becomes more affordable for many Americans.

This initiative is not a sneaky Democrat plan to redistribute wealth. In contrast, Obama's free community college proposal was inspired by the state that we all call home: Tennessee. The "Tennessee Promise" and "TnAchieves" programs were each created within the last five years to alleviate the costs of community college for Tennessee students. Our state's government created this program because it is projected that by 2025, nearly 55% of jobs in Tennessee will require at least a two-year degree, yet currently only 32% of Tennesseans meet that standard. These programs fund four consecutive semesters of community college as long as the student is maintaining a 2.0 GPA or higher.

In addition to the academic achievement, students are required to perform eight hours of community service every semester and meet with a mentor to help plan for entering the labor force. More than 57,000 students have utilized these programs in Tennessee, and there is a similar program underway in Chicago. Evidence for the efficacy of the proposed plan is abundant.

It is no secret that America's educational system and economy have been lackluster for quite some time. This program



COMMUNITY BENEFIT: Students at Volunteer State Community College can benefit their respective communities as members of the educated workforce.

PHOTO: CAMPUSEXPLORER.COM

seeks to strengthen America's economy by eliminating the gap between the jobs of the future and the skills of the current workforce. Jobs are becoming increasingly more complex, requiring skills in science and technology that a majority of Americans lack.

By educating Americans, the quickly-growing wealth gap can begin to shrink. This gap is largely a result of members of lower income brackets' not being able to afford the hefty price of college in a time when a college degree is essential. Educated parents with good jobs devote enough money to their kids' top-class education, while kids with parents who did not graduate from college do not have the same opportunities. The top-class education received by the children of educated professionals gives them a huge advantage in today's employment market. Free community college will help create a more socially mobile society by making it easier for lower-income kids to compete in this modern job-market.

By Mark Floyd
Staff Writer

The idea that "nothing is free" is a basic axiom of life. In the recent State of the Union address, President Obama said that he "plan[s] to lower the cost of community college to zero." He followed by saying that he wants to help "those who are already burdened with student loans reduce their monthly payments."

Students would simply have to maintain a 2.5 GPA to keep this two year deal. All this "free" stuff sounds great, doesn't it? Who doesn't want free community college and help with paying student loans? There are, however, several looming, serious questions that accompany the proposal.

As of January 25th, the United States is over \$18,094,810,587,607 in debt. That number rises an average of \$2.4 billion per day. Even with this debt, the president wants to start yet another

federal program that is going to cost an estimated \$60 billion over a decade.

The federal government would pay 75% of the costs, while participating states would take up the remaining 25%. If history has taught any of us a lesson, that \$60 billion will most certainly rise. So how is the federal government going to go about paying for it? Yep, you guessed it: taxes. The president's proposal not only includes increases on the expected areas (retirement, capital gains), it will raise taxes on people trying to save for college.

There are special savings accounts called 529 plans. When someone saving for college puts money into a 529 plan, it grows tax-free. However, the president's plan will place a tax on these people who are trying to save for college themselves. The "free" community college plan is very far from being free.

Do we really need the federal government to help pay for community college? There are countless grants and scholarships available for lower class Americans who want to go to college. There are over 25 different college grants in Tennessee alone, and many universities offer ample financial aid to families in need. There is ample opportunity to make college, especially community college, very affordable. There is no need for the federal government to unnecessarily get involved with community college.

Will this plan ultimately help students graduate with a degree? Most studies show that around 30% of students who start out at a community college actually graduate with a degree. This low success rate is the real issue in the United States' education programs. Under the proposed plan, there may be more people in community colleges, but that means nothing if they do not graduate with a degree. Tackling the issue of improving higher education to increase graduation rates should be left to the state, not the federal government.

The idea of a completely free college education sounds great, but our country is not ready for this proposal. Our country's debt is almost unbelievable, and that will have lasting effects on future generations. Ultimately, the plan that President Obama has proposed is costly and unnecessary.

OBAMA ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL:
President Obama talks higher education at a rally.

PHOTO:
URBANINTELLECTUALS.COM



You Gotta Fight for Your Right to SPEAK



CARTOON BY JEAN JULLIEN

By Peter Taylor
Asst. Entertainment Editor

"Je suis Charlie." These three little words have become a rallying cry against terrorism across a world that political intimidation and violence have never affected more. When millions of people across the world proclaim "I am Charlie," they are mourning the deaths of twelve staff members of the French satirical magazine *Charlie Hebdo* who were killed in a violent shooting on January 7th, 2015. Simultaneously, they are taking a stand against terrorism.

From the extremists' point of view, the magazine's biting offensive portrayals of Muhammad justified their punishment of the staff. The world at large, however, does not see it in the same

light. France rightfully sees the attack as an infringement upon the basic human right of freedom of speech and, as Anne Hidalgo, the mayor of Paris, stated, "an attack on the values of our republic."

The tragedy of the *Charlie Hebdo* attacks raises a question: what are the boundaries of freedom of speech? Our own country was founded upon the idea of total freedom of self-expression, as the First Amendment to our Bill of Rights explicitly guarantees.

When someone's opinion is not your own, you have the right to disagree. But do you also have the right to harm them because they express an idea contrary to your own? Just because I hate the music of Def Leppard, do I have the right to murder the band members? Of course not.

Some would argue that supporting *Charlie Hebdo* in this time of strife is also endorsing the content of the journal. This could not be further from the truth. Supporting the idea of freedom of speech does not mean supporting everything that is freely said. *Charlie Hebdo's* stinging satire against not only Islam and Muhammad but also Catholicism and Judaism, among other topics, has often been considered blatantly racist and offensive to those whom the magazine targets, so much so that the editor Stéphane Charbonnier was living under police protection from 2009 until his recent murder mere weeks ago.

The world has so far proven itself strong in its *solidarité* against terrorism through its rallying cries and protests. The strongest disappointment, however,

was the absence of Barack Obama in the streets of Paris on January 11, when the world's leaders marched arm in arm in protest. What kind of message does his absence send about a country that has both experienced far too much terrorism in recent years, one that is based upon the very idea for which the world leaders marched?

Though I personally may not agree with, and may even be offended by, some of *Charlie Hebdo's* statements, that changes nothing. This tragedy is not a matter of beliefs, but of simple human rights. At *The Bell Ringer*, our hearts go out to the victims of the attack, and we must support France in this difficult time of struggle. We must, as a human race, assert our rights. *Je suis Charlie.*

Predators' Stellar Start Can be Attributed to Perfectly Executed Offseason

By: Andrew Kaplan
Staff Writer

In the words of Emily Dickinson, "Success is counted sweetest by those who ne'er succeed." For the Nashville Predators, the first half of the 2014-2015 NHL season has been nothing but sweetness. The team includes contenders for rookie of the year, defenseman of the year, goalie of the year, coach of the year, and NHL MVP.

While the past few seasons have been anything but enjoyable for Predators fans to witness, a turnaround has taken place this year, not to mention that the Predators have an NHL-leading 67 points coming out of the All-Star break.

What has caused this drastic change in team output? Halfway through the season, the Preds are only seven games away from surpassing last year's total win count. Is the success due to new personnel? Has the Predators' general manager, David Poile, executed the best offseason in his 32nd season in an NHL front office?

In fact, the Predator's untold success has been the result of a variety of factors, including the near-perfect offseason led by Poile. First, the team managed to keep key players on the roster in order to anchor the team. These players included Pekka Rinne, Shea Weber, Mike Fisher, Roman Josie, among others. Additionally, the Preds drafted well, taking the young stud Seth Jones, a defenseman performing very well now as well as showing a great deal of potential for the years to come (he is only nineteen years old). More importantly, this past offseason, David Poile worked his magic. Not only did he pick up big names such as James Neal, he had an eye

for undervalued contributors, like Mike Ribeiro, who has been a standout on the team, contributing a monstrous number of points night in and night out. Lastly, and most importantly, made in the little-decade franchise: the organization parted ways with defensive-minded Barry Trotz, the head coach of the Predators since its founding in the 90's.

In bringing in Peter Laviolette, the team was able to carry over Trotz's defensive schemes with team captain Shea Weber and other major contributors, while instilling an offensive focus that the team had yet to see in its existence. Since Laviolette's arrival in Nashville, the

goal-scoring has increased dramatically and the point differentials have grown each week. With the NHL's best goalie, a veteran defensive core, and a young and versatile offense, the Predators look unstoppable.

In the coming weeks, the biggest test for the Predators all year will become clear. The team must not only perform well enough with key players out (namely Pekka Rinne, pictured below), but also prevent a significant number of injuries in order to maintain the team's unrivaled depth throughout the league.

If there has ever been a time to become a part of Smashville and become a Predators fan, 2015 is most definitely the year. But hop on soon, because the bandwagon is filling up quickly.

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Letters to the Editor are encouraged, and can be delivered to the *Bell Ringer* office in the Lowry Building, the Faculty Advisors or the Editors, or sent to bellringer@montgomerybell.edu (simply type 'Bell Ringer' into the school email). These letters must be signed; *The Bell Ringer* neither publishes anonymous submissions of opinions or articles nor permits individuals to remain unidentified unless protected by other rules of confidentiality at MBA. Letters will be edited for length and clarity.

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As members of the Montgomery Bell Academy community, we are surrounded by diversity. The way we define ourselves as a group, however, is not by statistics on race or background but by the ways in which we interact with each other and celebrate each other's differences in a cohesive group whose decisions and actions are not determined by the status quo.

This issue of *The Bell Ringer* in particular highlights a wide range of life at MBA. Look no further than the front page, where the annual MLK march is featured. Look to page 8 and read about a group of students whose curiosity for our neighboring communities led them to a fascinating conversation and delicious meal with a member of Nashville's Kurdish population. Read what a Belcourt administrator had to say about the theatre's showing of *The Interview* despite cultural controversy. Celebrate the achievements of our athletic signees and of a faculty member whose efforts and talents led him to the Chicago Bulls.

There are so many opportunities within such close grasp that oftentimes go untouched that we should be reminded of our obligation to step out of our comfort zones and discover what we have to offer each other. It is our responsibility to take an interest in that with which we are not familiar, to take pride in the things that make us, as a group, special, not

just our great fortune which has brought us physically together.

There's more than one way to look at anything, to interpret any situation. As Atticus Finch would suggest, step out of your own shoes and into someone else's. Be understanding of other people's opinions and encourage others to voice those opinions when they might not otherwise be heard. Ideas and efforts can often be swept away by tides of overwhelming stereotype and assumptions about group agreement.

Let's be sensitive to each other and to people looking in on us from the outside. Just that something is popular doesn't make it right. Jokes about racist jokes might not be taken the way you expect them to be taken, and racist jokes themselves are out of bounds no matter with whom you are interacting. Be considerate of financial differences, sexual differences, and ethnic differences. No matter your stance, be tolerant of views opposite yours, because your opinion is never right, never superior. No matter where your beliefs are founded, there are others whose beliefs are founded in equally important places and ideas.

Diversity is a hollow word when not attached to experience and meaning. Let's define our own diversity not by how we look or by what we have, but rather by how we accept and encourage difference.

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Contact Aaron Kaplan, Kang Huh, Matt Miccioli or Anthony Swenson if you are interested.

Kurdish Population of Nashville Brings Pleasant Diversity

In a quest to further understand the variety of culture that Nashville has to offer, *The Bell Ringer* took a trip to Southeast Nashville, home to the nation's largest Kurdish population.

By Ian Scholer
News Editor

As we go about our daily lives on the Hill, it would be surprising if we encountered anyone from Kurdistan, the Middle Eastern region comprised of parts of Iraq, Iran, and Turkey. You won't find it on an official map, but make no mistake: the Kurds are a proud people. They aspire to establish an independent, sovereign state of their own, but for now must settle for increased autonomy from the Middle-Eastern states where their nation lies.

Nashvillians often hear the fact that their city holds the largest concentration of Kurdish immigrants anywhere in the world, but we never quite seem to have seen any Kurds, let alone know which part of town they live in or why they came. *The Bell Ringer* staff members Ian Scholer and William Snow decided to head over to southeast Nashville to look into these questions.

Driving south down Nolensville Road, the storefront signs transitioned from English to Spanish to Arabic. Eventually, at Elysian Fields Court lies the heart of the Kurdish population in Nashville. A mosque, two international food markets, a community center, and several other businesses with mostly Arabic signage bordered the street block. One of these markets was called the Newroz Market, and upon entry, the only thing that seemed glaringly different between Newroz and an old CVS was the presence of a foreign smell and a unfamiliar language in the air. Signs and trinkets hung on the walls, all bearing

the word *Masallah*. Following the smell wafting from the back corner of the market led to a counter behind which a man was preparing food: House of Shawarma. The food, Shawarma, is a more Middle-Eastern version of a gyro, a delectable combination of lamb and beef, amongst other fillings. Dining in front of the man led to a conversation that revealed his story.

Ahmed duHok had moved to America just 40 days before we met him. Formerly of Mosul, Ahmed came to Nashville to live with his cousins and other rela-

tives away from the highly volatile warzone that he left. Before, he worked as an interpreter for US military forces, demonstrating his impressive English skills. The military paid him to come over to America because of his service along with his cousin, who was also a translator. Not all of his family, however, was able to make the journey. Ahmed's father and sister still live in Iraq, but they fled farther north, away from Mosul and deeper into Kurdistan.



SHAWARMA DISCOVERY: (left to right) Ian Scholer, Salvador Moncayo, Ahmed duHok, William Snow, and John LaFranchise enjoy their conversation, complete with a wonderful meal prepared by duHok.

Ahmed spoke of Kurdistan as a much safer and comforting region, for the Kurds pose no danger to other ethnic groups. "We don't have trouble. We have no terrorists," he said. They boast the most moderate and tolerant population of any Muslim nation, and are the first people in the region the United States government turns to when it needs an ally. They are currently one of the America's strongest regional allies in the fight against the self-proclaimed Islamic State, and aided the United States in the war against Al Qaeda as well.

Ahmed was working on his Civil Engineering degree before he enlisted to help defeat Al Qaeda, recounting his need to translate words instantly such as "Watch out," "Ambush," or "Bomb." He spoke of his desire for a peaceful home.

All the while, Ahmed tended to another customer in the market, engaging in two conversations in two different languages simultaneously.

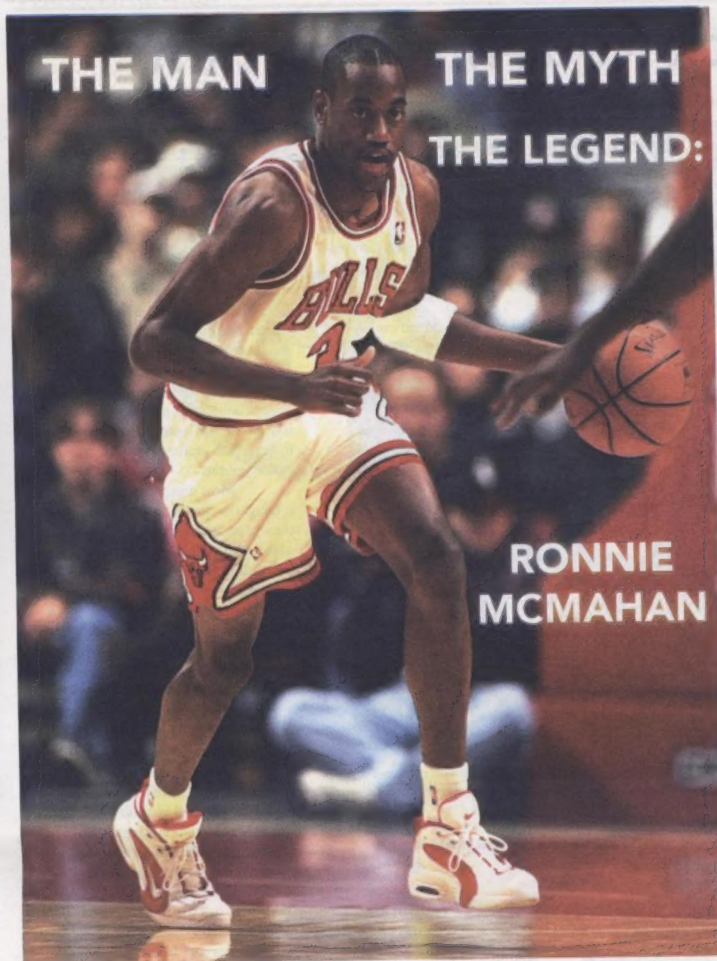
Oddly enough, the Kurdish felt completely normal and no longer foreign. Newroz Market was no longer a foreign building in a foreign quarter of its adopted city. Instead, Ahmed continued to speak of his journey. He was working at the market to save up money for his family. Reflecting on the work, he said, "Life in America is very difficult. You must work every day, every day." Ahmed is following his own advice as he continues to embody his people's humility and devotion to an honest life.

As we approached the front counter of the market to pay for our lunches, we remarked on the signs and trinkets bearing the word *Masallah* once again. The cashier, a young and polite woman from Kurdistan, revealed to us that *Masallah* means "God protect it," or "God watch over it." The Kurds bear these good-willing messages virtually everywhere they work and live, for they firmly believe in peace on earth. *Masallah*.



MASALLAH: The placement of objects such as this one in places of work and living represents the Kurdish emphasis on peace.
PHOTO BY SALVADOR MONCAYO/BR





THE MAN THE MYTH THE LEGEND:

RONNIE MCMAHAN

By Richard Thornton & Clay Cavallo
Staff Writers

Coach. Advisor. Administrator. These are just a few of the titles that Ronnie McMahen has at MBA, along with his reputation as a hat enthusiast. Although he is an integral part of the MBA community, many students know little about him. *The Bell Ringer* sat down with Coach Mac to discuss his past, specifically his basketball career.

Ronnie McMahen grew up in McMinn County in Athens, Tennessee. He attended McMinn County High School (MCHS), where he was a basketball star. His success at MCHS drew the attention of college coaches his junior year, the first being the University of Tennessee (UT), under then-coach Steve Krum. The summer after his junior year, Coach McMahen attended basketball camps at Middle Tennessee State University, Tennessee Tech, and UT. It wasn't until he went to a Boston College All-Star Invitation Camp in July, though, that other programs—notably Vanderbilt, New Orleans, Furman, and North Carolina State—followed suit and began showing interest in the lengthy, athletic shooting guard.

Vanderbilt, North Carolina State,

and UT eventually evolved into his final three suitors. Each school had a different draw for the athletic wing from Athens. He was intrigued by the tradition of North Carolina State instituted by the legendary coach Jim Valvano. One of his best friends, Allan Houston, had decided to attend UT. In the end, though, Ronnie McMahen decided to attend Vanderbilt University. He was drawn by Eddie Fogler's UNC system, created by Dean Smith, one of the greatest college basketball coaches of all time. On his official visit to Vanderbilt, he was able to watch a preseason NBA game between the Chicago Bulls and the Utah Jazz and meet both Karl Malone and Michael Jordan, two future Hall of Famers, in the locker room after the game. This experience sealed the deal for him, and he signed with Vanderbilt on the morning of November 15th, the day of the first game of his senior season. That night he scored 45 points, which he believes was "God telling me I made the right decision."

McMahen finished his senior season in a state championship loss to Memphis Hamilton, but five guys on McMinn County's ended up playing in college. During the summer after he graduated from high school, McMahen led the Tennessee Travelers to 5th place finish in the AAU national tournament. The Travelers

fell to a Detroit team loaded with future NBA All-Stars Chris Weber and Jalen Rose.

During his freshman year at Vanderbilt, McMahen started and helped lead the Commodores to a 28-6 record, an SEC Championship, and an NCAA Sweet Sixteen run. Although Vanderbilt's Eddie Fogler received AP National Coach of the Year, he did not receive a contract extension and left for South Carolina. The team struggled to develop chemistry and meet expectations the next year under Jan Van Breda Koff. McMahen recounted memorable wins from his college days including beating #1 Kentucky, #5 Louisville, #8 Arkansas, and a Wake Forest team led by Tim Duncan. McMahen finished his career second on Vanderbilt's all-time scoring list and first in three-pointers made with 296 (at this time, he is number five in scoring and number 2 in three-point field goals).

After leaving Vanderbilt after his senior year, the NBA was on strike, so McMahen had nowhere

to tryout. Luxuries such as rookie camps and NBA workouts were not available during the strike, so he went to Jackson, TN and played for the Jackson Jackals, earning \$200 a week and living in a hotel. The team played all over the Southeast against other small regional teams. During this time, McMahen continued looking for a playing job overseas, went back to Vanderbilt to work on his degree, and asked to tryout for the Chicago Bulls. He was granted a tryout and played so well that he competed in six 1995 preseason games with the team. He hit his first shot, a three, at the University of Notre Dame. As the 7th man, McMahen was on

the floor with NBA legends like Dennis Rodman, Scottie Pippen, and Michael Jordan. Although he was playing well, it was difficult for him to make a team loaded with NBA talent, a team in the midst of its second three-peat. The last man cut, McMahen played for the Chicago Rockers, a CBA semi-professional team. He was allowed, though, to work out twice a week at the Bulls facility where he became good friends with some of the Bulls' players like Jordan and Pippen. McMahen appreciated their friendliness and down-to-earth attitudes.

The following summer, McMahen took his talents to Winston-Salem, where he played for a USBL team that eventually folded due to financial struggles. He returned to Chicago to try out for the Bulls again. He didn't make the cut, and after a stint as a starter in the Chicago Review summer league, McMahen returned to the CBA in Yakama, Washington. After two months, McMahen was cut and told his agent that he wanted to go overseas.

Basketball overseas was different for McMahen, as he noted how players in Europe were more technically sound and skilled than in the states. He remembers how every player could shoot, dribble, and score. The focus wasn't just being more athletic or stronger than your opponent. He played in Hungary for five and a half seasons, finishing as high as second in the league one year. Between his time in Hungary, Coach Mac also spent time in Argentina and Austria, playing in different leagues. In the Spring of 2002, Mac returned to Hungary. In the middle of the playoffs, he slipped a disc when he slipped in the shower. It was his first brush with any major injury and required a steroid shot. He was out of action for four months, and when he returned to action, his career was coming to a halt. After his four months off, his body wasn't ready for the stress of professional basketball. He joined a team called Pax, but only played for just over a month before they released him. He recognized at that time that his professional days were over.

He returned to the United States and finished his degree at Vanderbilt, graduating in Health and Human services in December 2003. While earning his degree, McMahen worked part-time at MBA coaching the ninth grade and at Backfield in Motion. On April 1, 2004, Mr. Gioia hired him as the 9th and 10th grade Dean of Students, a position he currently holds, along with serving as the assistant coach for the Varsity basketball team.



I (SE)C YOU: Coach Mac hauling in the accolades

PHOTOS: KENLUNET & PHOTOSHELTER.COM

Two Ten Jack Redefines Ramen

By Kang Huh
Associate Editor

When most Americans think of ramen, they think of the instant noodle cups found in college dorms across the amber waves of grain. Overseas, though, ramen is a tradition held in high esteem by masters who work hours on end to serve uniquely chewy noodles swimming in a pool of carefully-crafted broth.

Hailing from Japan, ramen is a discipline in itself, with a variety of styles varying from region to region. Think of it as the Japanese equivalent of Southern barbecue, which differs whether you're in Kansas City or Memphis.

In Hokkaido, you have the heavy influence of the local seafood. In Sapporo, you see a heavy American influence with the bizarre addition of butter and corn. In Tokyo, though, you're in the heart of innovation, where even chefs like Ivan Orkin, an American-born cook, can succeed in an otherwise often xenophobic culinary culture.

Ramen, it seems, knows no bounds. Ever since the real deal made a grand appearance in the United States through Korean chef David Chang's Momofuku empire, ramen has become a food fad among the trendier cities, beginning a new canon of American ramen.

Nashville, too, has begun to see the rise of ramen with the establishment of Two Ten Jack by Patrick Burke in January 2014. As an izakaya, Two Ten Jack focuses primarily on making Japanese-influenced bar food, small plates to accompany a night of shared drinks. The small dishes themselves are a fusion of culinary traditions American and Japanese.

The crispy Brussels sprout

seasoned with shichimi (a blend of seven spices) and miso vinegar pays homage to current American food trends. The sprouts are fried, ridding them of the bitter flavor and lending a wonderful crispiness, while the shichimi adds a bit of spice. The miso vinegar brings in a refreshing acidic taste, while the miso tones down the sharp notes of the vinegar while contributing a salty, nutty flavor.

The takoyaki, on the other hand, pays respect to Two Ten Jack's Southern surroundings. Though takoyaki is traditionally a pan-fried ball of octopus, green onions, and pickled radish in batter, Two Ten Jack simplifies it by turning it into an octopus-studded hush puppy. The miso butter served alongside encapsulates the salty, nutty flavor of miso with the creamy, ever-so-sweet nature of the butter. Together, the components make for a plate that is a creative, tasty take on the traditional dish.

Two Ten Jack's yakitori, or grilled meat, offerings are much more traditional in comparison. Seasoned with tare, or chicken-infused soy sauce, the bits of skewered meat are grilled to perfection. The meat is charred on the outside and perfectly moist on the inside, a quality rarely found in meat cooked over ripping hot flames. Particularly notable is the hatsu skewer, or the chicken heart. The heart is more flavorful and gamier than the prime cuts of chicken, making it more interesting to

the palate than, say, a chicken breast.

As a ramen house, though, Two Ten Jack sticks largely to tradition. The restaurant serves up three types of ramen: tonkotsu, tori paitan, and shoyu. Both tonkotsu and tori paitan are bone-based soups, made by slowly boiling the bones of pork (tonkotsu) and chicken (tori paitan). The shoyu ramen at Two Ten Jack is a vegetarian option, flavored primarily by soy sauce.

I chose the tonkotsu ramen for myself, served with the traditional



YAKITORI: Seasoned with chicken-infused soy sauce, this skewered meat is grilled to perfection.

PHOTO BY KANG HUH/BR

toppings of chashu (Chinese-style roasted pork), menma (marinated bamboo shoots), and a soft-boiled egg. Because the soup was bone-based, the soup had

a pale, milky color. Don't be mistaken, though—the soup doesn't (or rather, isn't supposed to) use dairy to achieve the color. The coloration is an indication of the soup's rich, porky flavor, enhanced by the bits of minced pork fat that accompany the dish. The noodles, handmade, are delightfully chewy. As opposed to the fusion dishes featured in the izakaya menu, the ramen is an authentic, dare I say satisfactory, stand-in for true Japanese ramen. My only complaint would be that the soup was a bit heavy on the salt.

The shoyu ramen is delicious as well, and less heavy on the sodium. As a vegetarian option, the dish would satisfy an eater in a pinch. As a meat-eater, though, I do prefer the tonkotsu and tori paitan options.

Most disappointing, however, is the garlic noodle. The noodles, while chewy, are not particularly special. Seasoned with crab butter, the noodles lack a significant seafood flavor. It somehow even manages to lack a distinct garlic flavor as well. Rather, the noodles are vaguely sweet and slightly salty. Although the dish isn't bad or bland by any means, it lacks any distinct flavors to make it worth the \$9 price tag.

All in all, Two Ten Jack offers a variety of both traditional Japanese and Japanese-American fusion cuisine. Through its izakaya menu, Two Ten Jack follows the trend of reinventing classic dishes with more exotic ingredients. Through its ramen offerings, though, the restaurant pays its respect to a time-honored tradition of ramen cookery.

While a bit on the expensive side, a visit to Two Ten Jack is one worth making, a chance to experience the labor of love that is real Japanese ramen.

Cheap Eats: COOKOUT

By Davis Luster
Staff Writer

One midsummer's afternoon as I was driving down West End, I saw the most beautiful-ugly neon restaurant sign to date. The newly erected beacon of hope read "COOKOUT" in big, white block letters. I had been awaiting this moment since I first set foot into the Knoxville restaurant of the same name. Cookout's value, variety, and vibe set it apart from all other fast food restaurants. Its menu is covered with delicious items with cheap prices—a mere \$8 will get you my personal favorite meal: four corn dogs, an order of fries, and a peanut butter chocolate milkshake. But do not let the cheap prices fool you. The food is real and grilled or fried to perfection every single time.

Instead of specializing in, for

example, just burgers or just chicken, Cookout boasts the whole spectrum of fast food staples. From hamburgers to quesadillas to hotdogs to wraps, Cookout has it all. Lastly and most importantly, the sell for germaphobes is the cleanliness and appearance of the restaurant. Upon entering, you feel as though you are stepping into a modern sports grill. Vanderbilt jerseys and relics festoon the walls, while the shiny wood-finished tables complete a prime culinary experience. Cookout combines fast food prices and the quality and quantity of a true sports grill. If you're looking for something cheap to fill your stomach, Cookout is truly a bastion of cheap eats.





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SCOTT PORTIS, CLASS OF '84
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LUKE BULLOCK
FOOTBALL, UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Luke Bullock, who was a key member of the 2014 Division II-AA state championship team, signed to play football at the University of Pennsylvania, a member of the Ivy League. Committing before the summer of his senior year, Luke had a successful senior high school season. As a free safety and cornerback, Luke had 36 tackles and 2 interceptions. When asked about why he committed to Penn, Luke said, "Once I visited, I knew that the atmosphere and academic rigor was right for me. Also, the coaching staff and defensive scheme fit my strengths."



ANDREW CONWELL
SOCCER, UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

Andrew Conwell signed to play soccer for the Washington Huskies in the Pac-12. Conwell, a member of the travel soccer team Tennessee SC who plays midfield, will continue at Washington, which is currently ranked 14th in the NCAA RPI. Jamie Clark, Andrew's next coach at Washington, says, "We are delighted to continue the Conwell family athletic tradition at UW. Andrew comes from an incredibly athletic family who have proudly represented many different Husky programs. Andrew is a smooth left footed player that has a bright future here at UW. He is both powerful and balanced, and will get up and down the left flank giving right backs problems in years to come."



CHATHAM DOBBS
SWIMMING, UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

Chatham Dobbs committed to swim at the University of Arizona in the Pac-12. Chatham is ranked as the top swimmer in Tennessee and 33rd overall in the class of 2015 according to collegeswimming.com. Chatham will swim the backstroke at Arizona. He has swum sub-25 second times in the 50-back and sub-1:00 times in the 100 Back. Chatham will join the Wildcats, which are currently ranked 14th in the CSCAA Coaches poll, and will play a big role in their backstroke event.



COLE EUVERARD
FOOTBALL, UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY

Cole Euverard, the quarterback for the MBA championship team, committed to play football at the United States Naval Academy. Cole was recruited to play quarterback, but says he'd be open to playing other positions. Cole will be one of eight players in Navy's 2015 recruiting class who are from Tennessee. Cole was named the Division II Class AA Mr. Football Back after a season in which he led the Big Red to the state title. In his senior season, Cole had a 59.4% completion percentage while throwing for 1868 yards and 17 touchdowns and rushing for 768 yards and 11 touchdowns.



PHOTO: MBA SOCCER

STUDENT SIGNEES

CHAD MITCHELL FOOTBALL, MERCER UNIVERSITY

Chad Mitchell, one of many key offensive linemen for the Big Red football team, committed to play football at Mercer University, a member of the Southern Conference. Chad will continue to play on the offensive line at Mercer. Bobby Lamb, Chad's next head coach at Mercer, has high praises for Chad: "Chad is a very agile young man with great feet and can play either guard or tackle. He comes from a great high school that won a state championship, so he knows how to win." Chad helped lead MBA to the state title this past fall, and was also a TSWA All-State selection and played in the Toyota East vs. West Tennessee All-Star Classic.



JOHN TIPPS BASEBALL, MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE

John Tipps committed to play baseball at Middlebury College, a member of the New England Small College Athletic Conference (NESCAC). John plays second base for the Big Red baseball squad and according to coach Mike Anderson, John will lead off in the varsity line-up in the upcoming spring season. When asked about attending Middlebury, John said, "Middlebury is a fantastic school, is located in a beautiful area, and provides tremendous opportunities. Coach Smith is a very good coach, but more importantly an excellent person. I really enjoyed meeting the current freshman on the team, who seem to love that place, so it felt like the right place." After helping the Big Red this spring, John will immediately find a spot to stand out for the Panthers' baseball team.



STEPHEN RAY LACROSSE, UNIVERSITY OF TAMPA

Stephen Ray signed to play lacrosse at University of Tampa, a member of the Sunshine State Conference. Tampa, who will begin their season ranked 4th in the Inside Lacrosse USILA Division 2, was where Stephen's grandfather went. When asked about why he chose Tampa, Stephen said, "I began talking to the coaches at Tampa in the Spring of my junior year and committed late in the first semester of my senior year. Tampa was an easy choice for me. Aside from it being my grandfather's school, it had some of the nicest facilities of any of the schools I visited and the location is just too hard to beat. They have a top ranked lacrosse program and the right academic program to put me in the direction I want to go." Stephen will be a big part of the Tampa lacrosse program's success for his years to come.



ZACH ROBERTS FOOTBALL, AUSTIN PEAY STATE UNIVERSITY

Zach Roberts, another key piece to the Big Red offensive and defensive line, committed to play football at Austin Peay State University, a member of the Ohio Valley Conference. Despite injuries, Zach battled the entire season on both sides of the ball. When asked how he settled on Austin Peay, Zach said, "I had some specific things I was looking for in a college to play football. Austin Peay really had it all. They just spent almost \$17 million dollars on facilities, including a new stadium, so that was probably the largest factor, the facilities. The campus is pretty up to date and really nice. The interaction of the team was really close, a lot like the closeness of our team here at MBA." Zach will continue to have an impact as a member of the Governors' football team.



KIRK WITH THE CALL

ESPN's Kirk Herbstreit gives his insight into football, television, and family.



By Palmer Thombs
Staff Writer

In his playing days, Kirk Herbstreit was a captain at Ohio State University, playing quarterback for the Buckeyes from 1989 to 1993. When asked what it was like commentating with his alma mater playing in the National Championship game, Kirk said, "I've called a lot of big Ohio State games in my career. It's not a secret—I love the Buckeyes. It's not as if I'm not a fan. It's not as if I'm not engaged, but for whatever reason, I just don't have a hard time unplugging my fan loyalty with my job that I have to do." This professional viewpoint helps Kirk keep his cool while still supporting Ohio State.

When asked what Urban Meyer should do with his quarterback situation if all three esteemed starters choose to return this fall, Herbstreit stated that it is certainly not a bad problem to have. However, he continued by noting, "Not letting a good situation become a distraction is key to the continued success of this team next season. With Braxton Miller considering transferring and J.T. Barrett still injured, it appears that Cardale Jones will be the only quarterback receiving reps at spring practice—that'll make him the leader in the clubhouse going into next season."

Kirk was also very pleased by the new playoff system. He said, "I really enjoyed it. Just as a fan, I thought it was great. This great story, this fairytale for Ohio State would have never played itself out if it weren't for the new playoff." Having received special insight from the committee, he stated that they took their jobs very seriously and

"ranked their teams very, very differently than we were used to in the AP Poll and Coaches Poll." He also believes that the theory that Ohio State received a playoff spot over TCU and Baylor based on "ratings" is false. While it may be true that the Buckeyes have a larger fan base than the two Texas teams, he believes the committee never let ratings or money come to mind.

While Herbstreit expects the playoff to eventually expand to eight teams competing, he believes four is perfect for now. "I'm okay right now with four. I think the one thing that is unique about this sport, that is unlike every other sport, is that every single week matters in college football. When these teams start next year in late August, every fan of Ohio State, Tennessee, Florida State, Oklahoma and Oregon, from all around the country, will be on the edge of their seats watching their teams because every game matters. In the NFL, you lose a game or two in September or October, you keep your head up and keep thinking, 'Okay, we are still in the mix in our division or maybe a Wild Card.' You just don't have the same passion week in and week out in any other sport like you do in college football. Because of that I think when you are playing for just four spots, people really know that there is a lot at stake every week." Nothing will ever eliminate this passion; however expanding the playoff would definitely lessen the intensity behind every week.

As for his opinion of the local Vanderbilt Commodores, he sees Vandy being in good hands with Derrick Mason. However, he did say he expected a transition year this past season. "They are young and when you are young in

the SEC that's tough, so I think it's easy to point the finger at a new head coach. But I think you've got to give him some time to really get a foundation established by going out and recruiting his kind of guys while making some tweaks along the way."



Down the road in Knoxville, Herbstreit said, "The two teams in the SEC that I'm really looking at in 2015 to show a lot of improvement are Arkansas and Tennessee, based on their performances down the stretch of the season." He believes Butch Jones has the program back on track and with the talent he is receiving through the recruiting process, the Vols are primed to succeed in the near future.

Professionally, he believes that Jameis Winston will be chosen as the first overall pick in the 2015 NFL Draft by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Many Bucs fans are also Florida State fans, which would attract them to attend games. As for the Titans holding the second overall draft pick, Herbstreit believes it would be a style change for Whisenhunt to select mobile Marcus Mariota. Kirk, along with many others, believes that the Titans need more than one player to significantly improve their team, and may be better suited to trade for draft picks. Teams like the Philadelphia Eagles with Coach Chip Kelly would be chomping at the bit to acquire his former quarterback from Oregon who seems to be the perfect mold for Kelly's system.

Now that the season is over, Kirk likes to spend time with his family. He is home most of the season, Sunday through Thursday morning, but much of his life revolves around the football schedules. Until football begins next August, he becomes a "taxi service business," driving his four boys to school and athletics all across town. He bases his schedule around the events of his boys to allow for as much family time as possible during his time away from football.

Overall, Kirk Herbstreit is a fascinating man in today's media world, and his insights into the game we all know and love are second to none.

Varsity Soccer Has Big Season Ahead



Davis Luster ('15) and his powerful head will be instrumental to this soccer team's performance.

By Ian Scholer
News Editor

The Big Red soccer team prepares to take the pitch this season with ambitious aspirations. Led by veteran seniors Andrew Conwell ('15), Curtis Turner ('15), Davis Luster ('15), and Louis Brown ('15), and coached by Coach Klausner and former Waterford United man Coach Cheevers, this team has its eyes set on going right to the very top.

The team's pursuit of a championship will rely heavily on its fierce attack comprised of the smashing striker Curtis Turner and the midfield maestro Andrew Conwell. Neither is a stranger to success on the team: they were last year's leading and second-leading scorers, respectively. Fans who like to see high-scoring games will be treated to a delightful display from this dynamic duo match after match.

Louis Brown's incisive runs from the wing will create space and openings for Turner and Conwell to work their magic, as well as create a few opportunities for the wide-man himself. "I think that we'll be strong going forward and that we'll score many goals," Cheevers predicts.

Though Coach Cheevers anticipates a slightly weaker defense than last year's line, the Big Red still looks strong in the back. Gone is the stout center-half Ross Blackwell ('14). Taking his place will be junior stand-out Will Emerson ('16), who will be playing in a deeper position compared to his central midfield role of last year. "We'll have to repair

quickly, but I'm confident that we will step up. Emerson will be a big loss in the middle of the field, but he's an exceptional defender as well," says Cheevers.

Emerson's defensive partners will include senior Davis Luster, who is best known for his heroics as the kicker of the state championship-winning football team. His ability to "kick the leather off the ball," as Cheevers puts it, translates well to the other turf field on campus.

Commanding the defense will be goalkeeper Mac Mackey ('15), a senior who took his junior year off to play for a travel team in order to gain experience for his final year on the Hill. His seasoned presence will be a welcome one behind the brand new defense. Says Cheevers of his first-choice man between the posts, "I'm expecting big things from Mac. If the

game's not going your way and you're in a tight spot, you want your goalkeeper to make some big saves." The defense will be cushioned by the holding midfield players Chase Meluch and William Porter, who will be responsible for cutting out the opposition's attacks in the midfield.

The opposition will be stiff this year, with bitter rival Father Ryan fielding yet another strong team. The rivalry match will be played at home this year,

along with important matches against McCallie and CPA.

For those who cannot make it to the matches, Big Red Broadcasting will be providing live-streams and commentary for all home matches. This soccer season is certainly one to look forward to for supporters and players alike. Hopes run high for this team. "I think we'll go all the way," Coach Cheevers tells *The Bell Ringer*, with a subtle, confident smile.



BROWN IS THE TALK OF THE TOWN: After an injury put him in a tough spot going into last season, Louis Brown looks to dominate the field.

PHOTOS: MBA SOCCER

Basketball Team Looking to Rebound

By Akeim George
Staff Writer

The MBA basketball team has had varied success over the course of this season. The team enjoyed a stretch of success until the month of January brought many heartbreaking losses to some of the state's best basketball teams. Though this season has had mixed results, three clear leaders have emerged for the Big Red before the start of the playoffs: Greg Quesinberry, Jermaine Francis, and Joe McKinney. Together, these three seniors have led the team in scoring, 3-point shooting, field goal percentage, assists, rebounding, free throws, and steals.

In a league filled with talented point guards, Quesinberry has been a huge defensive asset to the team. He often guards the opposition's best player, and is a part of the reason MBA has kept games competitive this year. He is able to contribute in all aspects of the game, becoming one of our best passers, stealers, scorers and rebounders, as well as coming through when the team needs him most.

On the offensive side of the ball, Francis and McKinney have been

studs for MBA. To say that Francis excels in the post is an understatement. He is able to fight through contact and double-teams to put up shots and draw fouls. He also is one of the team's top rebounders on both offense and defense.

McKinney has been a lethal three-baller all season long. His size and shooting touch have made him a threat to fill up the basket on any given night. He is also a great passer, recognizing mismatches and open teammates around the floor.

In addition to these three, five other seniors -- John Hazen, Geoffrey Holland, Richard Thornton, Clay Cavallo, and Austin Rolfe -- serve as the backbone of the Big Red basketball team. These seniors embody the selflessness that characterizes the team.

Juniors Jordan Wilson, Parker Bryan, and Carson Talbott have also distinguished themselves as key members of our team.

With only a few games left in the regular season, the Big Red hope to regain their footing before heading into an extremely competitive playoff field.



TOP: Jermaine Francis pulls up for a shot in the Big Red's victory over FRA in Currey Gymnasium.



RIGHT: Joe McKinney pulls up from behind the arc in a packed gym on Ensworth night.

PHOTOS: BIG RED PHOTOS



PHOTO BY CHACE CARPENTER

Big Red Swimmers depart today for the State Championship Meet in Knoxville. Keep your eyes on thebellringer.org for a recap of the swim season.

Ludwig Will Bring Big Program Experience to the Commodores

By Ben Coulthard
Staff Writer

On January 5th, the Vanderbilt football team hired 50 year-old Andy Ludwig as its new offensive coordinator. Ludwig has previously served as offensive coordinator at Fresno State, Oregon, Utah, California, San Diego State, and most recently, Wisconsin.

Commodore head coach Derek Mason sang high praises for Ludwig in the introductory press conference, stating he was "excited to welcome Andy Ludwig to Nashville and Vanderbilt University. We have attracted one of the brightest offensive minds and most successful coordinators in college football to the Commodore program."

Many big-name players have been very successful within Ludwig's offensive scheme, and the Commodore offense looks to benefit from his experience in the upcoming season. At Wisconsin, Ludwig produced multiple strong running backs, such as Heisman Trophy candidate Melvin Gordon and his counterpart James White. The two combined for 3,053 rushing yards, an NCAA record. With record-setting

seasons to his resume, Ludwig will be a good fit for the Commodore offense that struggled mightily last season.

Despite having four quarterbacks on the Vanderbilt depth chart, Ludwig wants the leaders of the offense to have confidence in making plays. When asked about how he wants his quarterbacks to compete, Ludwig responded, "We've got to complete passes. That's the quarterback's job. Otherwise, you're just a manager. Nobody likes that term, and nobody wants to be labeled that. So we've got to be passers." Returning quarterbacks Patton Robinette, Johnny McCrary, and Wade Freebeck all struggled to find success in their passing game last year, so Ludwig will look to up the confidence that the three players have in their arms in the coming year.

It will be interesting to see how Ludwig manages his offense. With three quarterbacks and a very talented running back in Ralph Webb, Commodore faithful are hoping Ludwig will find the same success with the Commodores he has had in his previous jobs.



BADGERING OFFENSE: Andy Ludwig during his time with the University of Wisconsin.

PHOTO: JRN.COM

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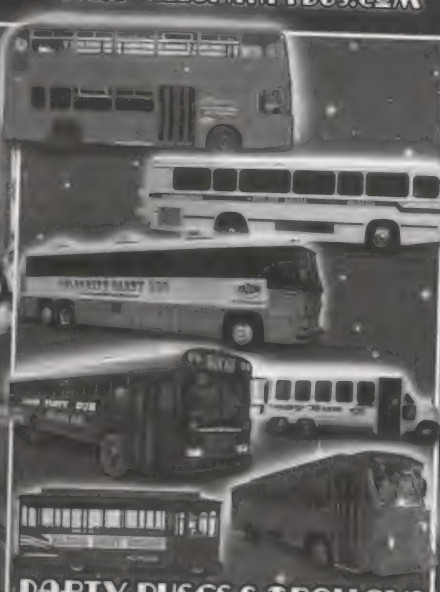
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Nashville's Belcourt Theatre Relishes Opportunity for Controversial Movie Showing

By Joseph Scowden
Staff Writer

Showing a controversial movie, especially one that has received the number of threats *The Interview* has, takes a lot of guts. Stephanie Silverman, the Executive Director at the Belcourt Theatre in Hillsboro Village, has those guts. Silverman had the courage to step up and take on a hugely controversial movie, and put it in her theaters, even though she had to face the consequences when it was to be shown. Recently, I interviewed Stephanie on her decision, and how it affected her indie theater.

Why did you want to show *The Interview* at The Belcourt?

Well, first I would like to start by saying we, before all of the confusion happened, did not intend to show *The Interview* in our theater—it was not on our radar, and it wasn't a movie we cared about. But all of a sudden, it was not going to be displayed anywhere, and that was a call for us small theaters to step up and show the film. That being said, we have a very small theater in comparison to the Regal theaters, so we knew it was doable as soon as we decided to show it. I personally wanted to show it, as well to get a newer audience in the theater.

When the movie was released, did you receive any threats?

No, zero. We were working with the police department and the FBI, who contacted us through a local representative and guided us through the entire process of showing the movie. They made it very smooth all way through. That being said, we did have extra security the first week

the movie was being placed just to be safe, but overall we had no problems.

Do you think the people watching the movie did so to support what it represented?

Yes, I do. I would say it was about 50/50 between our regulars, who come to see controversial movies all the time, new people who wanted

to see the movie either to support the "cause," and those who just wanted to see it. But most of both parties, I think, really came to see the movie to support America and all that the movie represented. The funniest thing that happened, though, was we had a great first week, but we totally dropped off after that. Either way it was really good to get a new fanbase in the Belcourt and show them how great a small theater can be.

What do you think the most important part of showing *The Interview* at the Belcourt was?

Well, I think it was very important for the community to see this movie, to really be exposed to a controversial movie as well as to become a part of the Belcourt experience in doing so. I think it is very important for us all to be exposed to such movies, to expand our horizons. That is why we show the movies that we do at The Belcourt, to expand the audience's wisdom and hopefully they will come out of our theater changed for the better.



Unbroken Film Falls Just Short of Former All-School Read

By Davis Luster & Anthony Swenson

Staff Writer & Associate Editor

After talking with many moviegoers who saw *Unbroken*, Angelina Jolie's debut film as a director, one common thread became clear: Those who have not read Laura Hillenbrand's book of the same title raved about the film, but those who have read the book were disappointed.

The story of Louis Zamperini can be broken down into four phases: early childhood and running career, plane crash and time spent lost at sea, time in the Japanese prisoner of war camp, and finally, his return to America and the remainder of his life. It's in treatment of these phases that the movie both succeeds and fails.

The movie captures Louis' struggles as a devious child beautifully. The scenes of bickering at his house, tussling with his peers, and running with his brother fits the book's description perfectly. However, the transition from a troubled boyhood to a star Olympian is too swift. Perhaps one of the biggest disappointments comes when the movie leaves out one of the book's most interesting moments: Louis shaking Hitler's hand

in the Olympic Stadium.

Nearly half of the movie focuses on Louis' time in the Japanese POW Camp. Several gruesome scenes depict the horrors Louis faced while in the camp as The Bird, the sadistic prison guard, tortures Louis. After watching beating after beating, the violence becomes repetitive and stale. While the brutality inflicted upon Louis is certainly horrific, the film should have spent less time on The Bird's savagery and more on Louis' return to America and life after the war. The movie ends with Louis embracing his family on American soil. But having read Laura Hillenbrand's *Unbroken*, I was aware of the internal struggle Louis faced in his post-war life. In typical Hollywood fashion, the movie avoided any notion of the hero's personal weakness. The movie wraps up in what seems to be a "perfect" ending commenting on Louis' unwavering forgiveness.

However, it was only because of his turmoil upon his return from war that Louis came to understand the importance of forgiveness. His encounters with famous evangelical preacher Rev. Billy Graham, omitted from the film, teach Louis about forgiveness leading him to form a healthy relationship with God. In fact, the only mention of God throughout the entire film comes when Louis promises to

commit his life to God if he were to survive his experience on the raft. While Hollywood may shy away from religious references, the book makes clear that Louis' profound faith in God lifted him above his troubles. In fact, Louis' devotion to God was so strong that he was compelled to return to Japan and forgive all of his former captors and abusers.

While Hillenbrand's *Unbroken* tells a more fulfilling story than the Hollywood version, I would still recommend seeing the film. Though several crucial details are omitted from Louis' biography, the film is still well made. This movie enshrines Zamperini's lasting memory, and we at MBA are forever grateful to have met such an inspirational man.



STAR-STUDED CELEBRATION: Zamperini during his visit to MBA in 2012.

Boyhood Combines Twelve Years of Filming into One Masterpiece

By Jack Capizzi

Staff Writer

If you have heard anything about *Boyhood*, you have likely heard about the incredible production. Filmed over a total of twelve years, *Boyhood* captures the essence of growing up like no other film has before. Director Richard Linklater has already made his impact in films like *Bad News Bears*, *Bernie*, and *School of Rock*, but this project has taken his filmmaking career to a whole new level.

Twelve years ago, most of us weren't in school. The only other movie that displays a similar progression in the lives of its actors is the *Harry Potter* series which, in its entirety, took only ten years to film.

The movie contains both subtle and obvious glimpses into the past, whether from a song in the soundtrack or a pop culture reference discussed by the characters. I particularly enjoyed the nostalgia produced by "Yellow" by Coldplay and "Hate it Here" by Wilco.

The movie follows Mason Evans Jr. (Ellar Coltrane) as he progresses from a six-year old kindergartner to an eighteen-year old college student. He lives with his sister Samantha (Lorelei Linklater, the daughter of Richard Linklater) and his single mother (Patricia Arquette). At the beginning of the film, Mason and Saman-

tha are visited by their biological father (Ethan Hawke), who has left the family to live in Alaska but returns to see the kids more often.

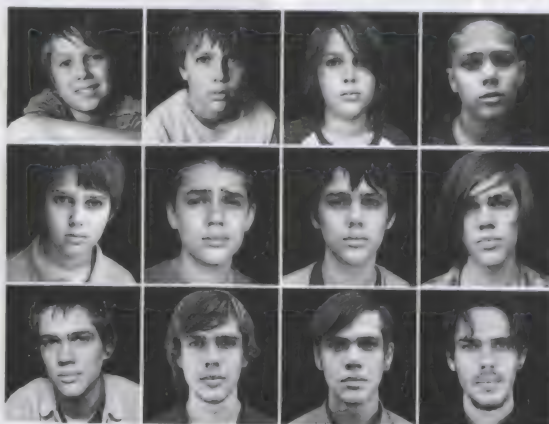
As the film progresses, Mason's mother gets remarried to her professor, Bill Welbrock (Marco Perella), a character revealed to be an overly aggressive alcoholic who throws a glass at Mason when confronted about his alcoholic tenden-

cies, ending the marriage. As Mason gets older, his interests shift from videogames to artwork and girls. His aging comes with some side effects, as he dabbles with drugs and alcohol. The film progresses through his high-school days as Mason becomes interested in photography as a potential career. Mason matures throughout the film, and when he arrives at college at the film's end, he is noticeably

different from the six-year-old Mason at the film's beginning.

Throughout the movie, it seems as though we get a better view of the characters surrounding Mason than we do of him. This technique conveys that we may know a lot about other people and their personalities, but we often don't know these things about ourselves. The movie acts as a reflection to our lives in that, while we may not be a reserved-but-intellectual kid like Mason, we all have struggles that are similar and different. The film also reminds us that just because someone may seem confident and cool at school or in public, they may still have issues in regards to their home life or problems with themselves.

Growing up is tough, and capturing it on screen is even tougher. Somehow, though, *Boyhood* manages to do so without being boring or unrealistic. The movie has been nominated for best picture at the Academy Award. Even while the acting is not phenomenal and the cast is not plucked from the biggest Hollywood studios, the story, lessons, and truth in the movie make it an archetypal coming of age story.



FROM SIX TO EIGHTEEN: Mason Evans, Jr. (Ellar Coltrane) through the years.

PHOTO: AUSTINTEXAS.ORG

Academy Awards

By Joseph Scowden
Staff Writer

Best Picture

Nominees: *American Sniper*, *The Imitation Game*, *Birdman*, *Selma*, *Boyhood*, *The Theory of Everything*, *The Grand Budapest Hotel*, and *Whiplash*

Golden Globe Winners:

Drama -- *Boyhood*

Comedy/Musical -- *The Grand Budapest Hotel*

Oscar Prediction:

Boyhood will receive the award because of the film's unique production process, something the Academy will adore. Best Picture is the most prestigious award the Academy gives. The candidates this year for Best Picture are very different from past years because of the recent rise in popularity of independent films. A whopping five of the eight movies nominated for best picture are independent films. This indicates that more and more people are going to independent theaters like the Belcourt to watch films. All of these statistics aside, *Boyhood* will win the Oscar, solely on its production process, where the filmmakers depict a real boy's fictionalized life over the course of twelve years, from ages six to eighteen. This truly heartwarming and tear-jerking movie deserves to go to the top of your list of films to watch next.

Best Actor in Leading Role

Nominees: Steve Carell (*Fox Catcher*), Michael Keaton (*Birdman*), Bradley Cooper (*American Sniper*), Eddie Redmayne (*The Theory of Everything*), and Benedict Cumberbatch (*The Imitation Game*)

Golden Globe Winners:

Michael Keaton (*Birdman*)

Eddie Redmayne (*The Theory of Everything*)

Oscar Prediction:

The award is a close call between Michael Keaton and Bradley Cooper but will likely go to Keaton. There are some phenomenal actors nominated for the Best Actor this year, but these are two who are truly in the race for the award. Bradley Cooper's performance as a battle-stricken hero dealing with the horrors of war questions our belief in the definition of a hero in the 21st century. That being said, Michael Keaton's performance in *Birdman* cannot be beaten as he plays the role of a washed up actor living in the shadow of a superhero that he played in his earlier years, and who is finally revitalizing his career in Broadway. Many critics and filmgoers alike have recognized his performance as the best indie film performance of the year.

Best Actress in Leading Role

Nominees: Marion Cotillard (*Two Days, One Night*), Rosamund Pike (*Gone Girl*), Felicity Jones (*The Theory of Everything*), Reese Witherspoon (*Wild*), Julianne Moore (*Still Alice*)

Golden Globe Winners:

Amy Adams (*Big Eyes*), Julianne Moore (*Still Alice*)

Oscar Winner:

Though the award should go to Rosamund Pike in my personal opinion, it will go to Reese Witherspoon. As a creepy movie enthusiast, I believe that a great scary female role in a movie cannot be beaten. But, in this case, I believe that the Academy will not agree with me. The Academy will choose Reese Witherspoon from *Wild*, whose character goes on an expedition to self-discovery. This performance is very good and is what the Academy is looking for. But the actress who deserves to win is Rosamund Pike from *Gone Girl*. Her performance as an insane housewife who destroys her relationship with her husband, to say the least, is quite realistic, and downright scary.

Actor in Supporting Role

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Grateful Dead to Stage Three Final Performances

By Steve Wood
Entertainment Editor

Nearly twenty years after the death of guitarist Jerry Garcia, legendary musical pioneers The Grateful Dead will take the stage again over the Fourth of July weekend at Soldier Field in Chicago for three final performances. The "Fare Thee Well" shows, named after a line from the Dead's classic "Brokedown Palace," will likely be the last time the "core four" members of the band, Bob Weir, Phil Lesh, Bill Kreutzmann, and Mickey Hart, perform together as the Grateful Dead. Trey Anastasio, lead guitarist for Phish, will join the band to fill the late Garcia's shoes, and keyboardists Jeff Chimenti and Bruce Hornsby will round out the lineup.

Initial response to the band's reunion has been generally positive; while some Deadheads are upset that the band will play without its leader Garcia, most fans recognize that The Grateful Dead have always been an exploratory, experimental band and welcome the chance to hear Anastasio play with the group. Accordingly, the

Fare Thee Well shows are some of the most highly anticipated shows of the summer.

Keeping with a Grateful Dead tradition of selling tickets independently by mail order, the band's office in California has already received more than 60,000 ticket request en-

velopes for a total of approximately 350,000 tickets, and that number reflects only the fans who took the time to purchase postal money orders, fill out index cards with ticket requests, and send their envelopes to California for the "limited pre-sale." Soldier Field has a capacity of about 60,000,

meaning that sales of roughly 180,000 tickets will fill the stadium over three nights. With a demand for 350,000 tickets in just the pre-sale alone, it will be interesting to see what kind of prices the tickets will fetch in the secondary market.



SOLDIER FIELD WILL PLAY HOST TO HISTORICAL CONCERT: The Grateful Dead will perform one last time when they take the stage this summer without lead guitarist Jerry Garcia, who passed away twenty years ago. PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA

Cellophony: Get Involved in MBA's Annual Student-Run Music Benefit

It's time to mark your calendars for April 1st, the date of MBA's legendary concert fundraiser *Cellophony*. Put on in the name of the Nashville W.O. Smith School of Music, *Cellophony* is a high-voltage rock show that raises funds for the musical education of impoverished children. After a spectacular show last year dominated by a cello performance of "Highway to Hell" from Kang Huh, the guitar shredding of Si Deane, and the folk-rock tunage of Dead King Cotton, Dutch and Kid and other incredible performances, the organizers of *Cellophony* are issuing a call to arms.

The Hill is filled to the brim with musical talent, though not all of our musicians are readily apparent if they aren't already involved with music at MBA. Why waste talent, when, in the words of Dewey Finn from the 2003 film *School of Rock*, they could be "creating musical fusion"? This article is therefore an informal invitation to play the show: if you're a musician interested in being considered to play *Cellophony*, whether you are currently involved with the MBA Music Department or not, contact Kang Huh, William Hall, or Peter Taylor for information.

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Freshmen Think It's Over

By Ty Allen, Alex Bulgarino, & Philip Scholer
Staff Writers

Well after mostly laughs from last issue, except from future journalist **Ben Frigon**, we haven't given up and are doing the class news again. Ben could not be reached for a comment on our last article. The freshman basketball team have lost as many games as **Will Nutter** has passed science tests (very few), and have won as many times as **Ensworth** parents have complained about our "offensive" cheers (a lot).

During winter break, some freshmen took Drivers' Ed and managed to be the first group to receive a discipline talk from Mr. Norton on the last day. **Larry Hayes**, with his laser-focus, was able to locate multiple packs of the instructor's cigarettes.

Often it is hard to pick up girls in the winter, but some freshmen have found the perfect way: trick-shots, courtesy of **McClain Portis**. Others have taken a different approach and pursued the opposite gender online. This approach too often results in not actually meeting their winter formal date.

Now, for the shout-outs:

Shout out to the class stud **Palmer Thombs** for getting asked to both Harpeth Hall and St. Cecilia Winter Formal. Save some for us mortals, **Palmer**.

Shout out to **Wes Hall** for expanding his horizons and finding three new "special friends."

Thanks to everyone who said prayers for **Yosef Howard**'s recovery. He's doing much better since his dad did the cross of a lifetime and literally broke his ankles.

Prayers also go out to **Jack Crawford** for having to deal with those "terrible cuts."

Shout out to **Ford Brewer** for finally taking out the trash.

That said, the pressure is rising. The question is here: who did and who did not go to Winter Formal? As of January, some people have been asked already to winter formal... Some are going to be asked... some are not. **Jack Sullivan** and **Simon Webber** have been asked not once... not twice... but thrice to three different dances. **Jack O'Brien** was asked by a sophomore (I am starting to notice a pattern). Many others were asked on a blind date essentially, otherwise known as being asked by strangers.

As for exam fallout, the freshmen were excited that the first exams are over, and they now think that they are invincible. **Jack O'Brien** started skyping 18 year-olds, and **Simon Webber** continued to rock climb.

So it was Christmas break and most people stayed in town, but others went on very exotic trips. **Rett Holzappel**

went with **Wiley Martin** to the "desert that no one knows the name of" to go roadrunner hunting. Unfortunately, they were unsuccessful. **Will Grana** visited far, far away by watching all four of the Shrek movies again and learning the term "Shrekt." **Daniel** and **Robert Cowan** went to Dave and Buster's, where they busted all of their Christmas money. Also, congrats to **Ray Lee** for applying early to Harvard, Yale, Princeton, and all the other Ivy League schools.

In other news, freshmen are taking over JV and Varsity sports. **Thomas Carr**, **Will Nutter**, **Alexander Roberts**, and **Drew Weikert** are leading the JV Basketball team. **Robert Cowan**, **Daniel**

Cowan, **Josh Morris**, **Josh Morrin**, **Ben Evans**, **Michael Garcia**, and **Blakie "Robi" Robinson** are pulling more weight than the seniors according to **Robert**, as well as the numerous freshmen on the Varsity Wrestling, Riflery, and Swimming teams.



I WISH THAT I COULD BE LIKE THE SCHOOL KIDS: Joe and Patrick are honored to get a picture with a senior.

Sophomores Let Us Down Again

By Turner Johnson
Staff Writer

Love is in the air as we sophomores approach the always-exciting Valentine's Day. Just because I care about you guys so much, I am going to muster up all that is left in the tank and give you Dr. Love's final and wisest words.

There are two ways in which you can handle a relationship: (1) the right way, or (2) the wrong way. Go for a girl who you know will let you be in charge of the relationship and let you call the shots. Whipping boys **Mac "not Fitz" Lassing** and **Aubrey "Shy" Green** should not be your role models when it comes to this style of dating. Neither **Mac** nor **Big Aubs** have mastered the art of wearing the pants. On the other end of the spectrum you have guys doing it correctly. **Nick "Shark" Ray** has done a great job in this old doctor's eyes with his tennis phenom girlfriend. Also **Patrick "Becca" Andreen** and his favorite girl have been going strong since before Homecoming, but **Jackson "QB1" Maradik** is a relentless fighter and will never give up on his pursuit of the missing link in his life.

As a Class of 2017 insider, I

know what's gonna be hot in the new year, especially the trends. The biggest trend this year is being DIXIE and doing dixie things. There are a few essentials that anyone who wants to be dixie must have. One, the first and most important on this list, DUCK BOOTS. How are people going to know that you duck hunt if you don't have these stylish boots? Second on the list is a nice big camo jacket. Without camo, how are you going to hide in your blind and shoot your limit? The third and final thing on the dixie must-have list is a good offroad vehicle. No mud tires? Don't even bother calling yourself dixie. You're just a poser. **Magnus "If it flies it dies" Campos** is happy to field your questions, being the dixie lord that he is.

I know it can be hard to have a good time with your friends when the weather is cold and rainy everyday, but Class of 2017 activity planners **Barrett Brown** and **Will "anxiety attack" Warren** are your go-to guys when you're looking for a good time. Fun activities like Laser Tag and Go Carts are bound to ensue. Also, if you often find yourself getting bored, often the best way to combat your boredom is some harmless social media. The "in" app right now is RapChat. **Turner**

"RapChat Pioneer" **Johnson** and **Frist "Stanley" Allen**'s RapChats are sure to get you out of your funk and into nirvana. With such great rhymes as "RapChat and snapback" and "Verse and rehearse," you will not be disappointed.

This article would not be

complete without a shoutout to Class President and Captain of the JV Basketball team, **Will "Hoff" Hoffman**. Keep representing the boys of 2017 well. Stay classy, Sophomores.



NOW THAT WE'RE MEN: Tom Peters, Jack Hayles, and Will Peters gain self-confidence, facial hair.

Juniors Have First College Counseling Meeting; Extracurricular Involvement Up 250%

By Nolan Spear
Sports Editor

Well, it's January, and cold winds are sweeping through the Junior Class. Grades are moving up and down like one of Coach Barclay's sine and cosine curves, and most guys are spending their weekends in pursuit of the mystical A.

Guys like **Gray Adelman** and **John Kelly** have been busy, becoming particularly fascinated with a certain Food Network host. They have been said to be spending a lot of time on the guy's street and in the man's own house. **Jack King** was said to have to been in attendance on "_____ Road" one night as well, but conflicting reports from **Sam Smith** also have placed Jack in the McDonald's parking lot that night "searching for his keys." Who really knows with our friend Jack?

While munching on the illegally-obtained-yet-Captain-Norton-approved Moe's cheese dip a few weeks ago during his lunch period, **Russell McGinn** informed *The Bell Ringer* that he indeed watched the NHL All-Star game, but that frankly, he "wasn't impressed," stating,

"I'm actually getting pretty good at skating, and those guys are pretty amateur if you ask me. Just ask Coach Deusch; I bet you anything they couldn't start at Alabama. I'm serious, man." Russell could not be reached for comment regarding these inflammatory statements.

In unrelated student news, **Connor Downey** recently informed me that he's leaving a career of playing golf at Pomona and deciding to enter a career in card throwing. Said Connor, "My time on the beach in the Bahamas really prepared me for this, and Tim thinks it's a great move for my future, so why not, man?"

With all these events going, it wouldn't be a normal week unless we checked in on the whereabouts of "The Hampton Avenue Crew," specifically our good friends **T. Whitton**, **Matthew Robbins**, and **Grayson "GGGGGGGGGG" Lester**. Nothing's really been going on in T's life, but the rumor is he's taking money earned from "stocks" and moving to a shack on the top of Love Circle. "GGGGGGGGGGGGGGGG" and Matthew haven't been up to much either; "GGGG" recently became a resident in the state of Florida, and Matthew has been doing really well. Let's hope these three have a

great rest of the summer. Also, shoutout to **Chris Saxon** for a great first semester; keep up the great work, Chris!

Last but not least, if you ever need any help in the world of Latin, please email **Peter Briggs** at peter.

briggs16@montgomerybell.edu. He would be glad to meet with you during any of his study halls. What a great guy!



DO YOU EVEN LIFT? YEAH. Sam Smith and Connor Gray show off their modeling skills.

Seniors Get Sick of Winning

By Davis Luster
Staff Writer

Salvete! As the seniors near the end of their time on the Hill, many exciting stories continue to develop. Thanks to the previous issue of *The Bell Ringer*, the football team was propelled to a state championship victory over Ricky Ballard and his Ensworth Tigers on December 4th. Senior **Zach Roberts** definitely picked the right time for his breakout game as he stuffed the opposing running back on every play. **Owen "Ball Hawk" Powell**, **Luke "Pepperoni" Bullock**, and **Harrison "Murfreeboro" Lien** also showed out on defense. In addition to the stellar effort on the field, the support in the stands played a major role in defeating our rival that night. A major thank you goes out to **Heyward Rogers**, **Stephen Sullivan**, **Parker Logan**, **Jackson Garey**, and all the members of the Big Red Sea for their unwavering support throughout the season.

Following the big dance at some girls' school down the street, *The Bell Ringer* has been bombarded with new stories and developments. Apparently **Austin Rolfe** burned through the women and had two dates (who look strikingly similar) to the dance. **Haynes Young** was surprisingly allowed to attend after just being released from Alcatraz following a ten year sentence. **Anthony Swenson** had suh much fun at the dance. **John Hazen** had a splendid time at the dance though

he was drawn away towards the end. After an extensive analysis of the dance theme and music, **Mike Lacey** gave *The Bell Ringer* a positive review.

In other news, **Parks Ball's** photo album got hacked by a cool breeze the other day. **Mike Lacey** is a THOY. **Mac Mackey** recently informed me that the griffin is his favorite mythical creature. However according to some reports, the species has gone extinct in Michigan, putting Mac in quite the bind. **Jackson Hughes** recently enjoyed trip down under to Sydney.





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CASTING CALL ON THE HILL

It takes no stretch of the imagination to picture MBA teachers as the employees of the dysfunctional Dunder Mifflin.

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Dick Klausner as Michael Scott

The energetic enthusiast.

James Lech as Dwight Schrute

One farms beets; the other designs playgrounds. Both like cargo pants and bold glasses.

Matt Golenor as Andy Bernard

Easily excitable. School pride. Small cars.

Leland and Mike Davidson as Jim and Pam

Another quintessential couple brought together by the workplace.

Sean Kinch as Ryan Howard

Laid back, emotionally stable.

Sean Jackson as Toby Flenderson

A soothing voice and uncontroversial wardrobe.

Wendy Holmgren as Angela Martin

Strictly business.

Ed Tarkington as Robert California

"Sex is everything."

Will Hannon as Gabe Lewis

Tall, skinny.

Todd Moran as Todd Packer

Same first name.

John Lanier as Creed Bratton

Dig deep and you'll find a nebulous past and innumerable quirks. But you probably won't dig that deep.

Fran Stewart as Phyllis Vance

Sweaters, mom glasses, and big hugs that aren't hard to come by.

Jo Palmore as Jo Bennet

Southern drawl, Flannery O'Connor, and no chill.

